

A Memorial Concert for Paul Sperry

Featuring **Vianca Alejandra**, soprano

Marcella Calabi, soprano

Tami Petty, soprano

Darynn Zimmer, soprano

Lydia Brown, piano

Ye In Kwak (MM '24), piano

and **Tom Cipullo**, piano

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 | 3 PM
NEIDORFF-KARPATI HALL

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PROGRAM

Welcome

James Gandre

President, Manhattan School of Music

Remarks

Jim Beck

College Roommate of Paul

LORI LAITMAN

(b. 1955)

In This Short Life

(Text by Emily Dickinson)

RICHARD STRAUSS

(1864–1949)

Das Rosenband, Op. 36, no. 1

(Text by Friedrich Klopstock)

Darynn Zimmer, soprano

Lydia Brown, piano

Remarks

Richard Barrett

Friend and Colleague of Paul

FRANCIS POULENC
(1899–1963)

Les Chemins de l'amour
(Text by Jean Anouilh)

GIACOMO PUCCINI
(1858–1924)

“Donde lieta uscì” from *La bohème*
(Text by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa)

Vianca Alejandra, soprano
Ye In Kwak (MM '24), piano

Remarks

Joshua Sperry
Son of Paul

WILLIAM BOLCOM
(b. 1938)

Never More Will The Wind from *I Will Breathe a Mountain*
(Text by H.D.)

DAVID SISCO
(b. 1975)

“Charles, Peter, Frank, Jeff, and Thomas” from *Dear God*

Tami Petty, soprano
Lydia Brown, piano

Remarks

Raphael Sperry
Son of Paul

Reflection

Slideshow celebrating Paul, featuring his recordings
of John Musto, Franz Schubert, Francis Poulenc,
and Richard Hundley

Remarks

Ethan Sperry
Son of Paul

TOM CIPULLO
(b. 1956)

Touch Me from Late Summer
(Text by Stanley Kunitz)

Marcella Calabi, soprano
Tom Cipullo, piano

RICHARD HUNDLEY
(1931–2018)

The Astronomers

Marcella Calabi, soprano
Ye In Kwak (MM '24), piano

MICHAEL FLANDERS
(1922–1975)

The Hippopotamus

DONALD SWANN
(1923–1994)

Max, Cayesh, Milo, Solomon, Diran, Rain, and Siula
Grandchildren of Paul
Ye In Kwak (MM '24), piano

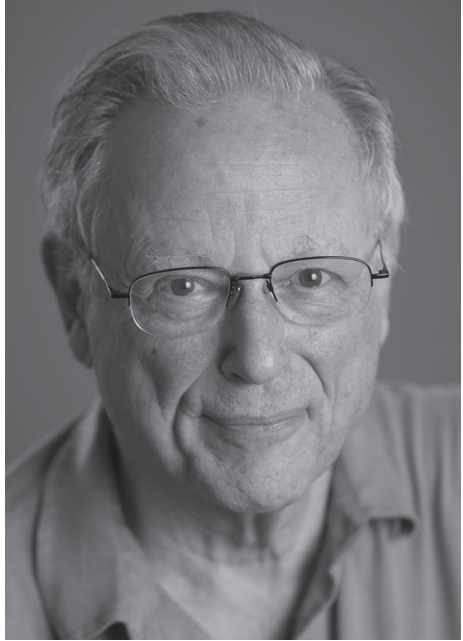
The audience is requested to join in the chorus:

Mud, mud, glorious mud
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood
So follow me, follow; Down to the hollow
And there let us wallow in glorious mud

REMEMBERING PAUL SPERRY (1934–2024)

American lyric tenor Paul Sperry was that rarity in today's musical world: a singer dedicated to preserving the song recital. Though his experience in opera extended from Monteverdi through Stockhausen, he devoted much of his time to the programming and performance of songs from every country and every period of music.

Born in Chicago, Sperry started piano lessons at age five, graduated from Harvard College, and continued his studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. He worked extensively with such masters of art-song interpretation as Pierre Bernac, Jennie Tourel, and Paul Ulanowsky and studied acting with Stella Adler. This combination of



liberal arts education, supreme musicianship, and dramatic flair contributed to what the *New York Times* called “one of today’s leading song recitalists.” Sperry’s extraordinarily wide repertory included songs, chamber works, and oratorios in 15 languages and includes more than 50 works that have been written for him by many of today’s leading composers, both European and American. Among them are Beaser, Bolcom, Cipullo, Druckman, Hagen, Hundley, Larsen, Musto, Paulus, Rands, Talma, Henze, Stockhausen, and Maderna.

Among his recordings are four CDs of American songs for Albany Records; Bernard Rands’s *Canti del Sole*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for CRI; and the complete songs of Ives, which he recorded with three other singers for Albany Records. He recorded a CD for Albany of four new song cycles by Tom Cipullo, Daron Hagen, Libby Larsen, and Paul Moravec. Zephyr Records has issued a CD of Poulenc songs with pianist Ian Hobson, as well as their CD entitled *Great Composers Love Folksongs Too*. Sperry has edited numerous collections of American songs for G. Schirmer, Peer-Southern, Carl Fischer, and Dover Publications. His book *American Encores* was issued by Oxford University Press.

Mr. Sperry joined the Manhattan School of Music faculty in 1995 and shared his love of American song with MSM students, teaching two courses: *The American Art Song* for undergraduate students and *American Song: Beauty & Wit* for graduate students. He gave master classes at the University of Illinois, the Eastman School of Music, the Peabody Institute, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of Southern California, Harvard, and Yale, among many others. He also taught courses in preparing song recital at Brooklyn College, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century repertory at The Juilliard School. He served on the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School from 1978–2002 and founded the vocal program at the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. In 1987 he became the director of Joy In Singing, an organization dedicated to helping young singers, American composers, and fostering the art song.

Mr. Sperry is survived by his three sons, Ethan, Raphael and Joshua; a brother, Leonard; a sister, Deborah Goldyne; and seven grandchildren. His wife, the sculptor Ann Sperry, died in 2008.

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